

Memo

To: John Tanner, Academic Vice President, BYU

From: Stephen Jones, Dean, College of Fine Arts and Communications

05 June 2008

John,

The BYU Chamber Orchestra's Carnegie concert was a wonderful success. I would guess of the 2800+ seats in the hall 2700 were filled, the "no shows" unfortunately preventing some of the 2000 additional people who wanted but could not receive tickets from getting in.

The orchestra played radiantly, with a professional sheen and élan that made all of us proud. As always, Kory [Katseanas] showed himself an effective and convincing conductor and musician, one who commands vitality and precision from his players. They responded with respect and skill. I sat in the corner box and had the view of the majority of the hall. It was magical to watch the audience and consider what a gift the Board, our donors and friends and our colleagues in NY Public Affairs had made possible for us and the New York Saints.

If there is ever a doubt, touring, while expensive and consumptive of time, has a tremendous effect on both the lives and the musicianship of our students. In service and through performance they deepen their testimonies and their abilities. I heard much more maturity in their playing last night, both because of the repetition of their program during the tour and also because they were rising to the opportunity to play on the stage where so many famous players and conductors have performed. Sometimes walking in the steps of great people helps us rise to new levels ourselves, and that was certainly the case last night.

The reception had the warmth of the Spirit about it, and was, in my mind, a great success. Ahmed Corbitt and others will better assess the long term impact on the diplomatic and general New York community, but from my perspective, great good was accomplished.

Kory and others will tell better than I can the stories of working and singing with the Amish in Pennsylvania, of the hearts that were touched at the youth correctional facility in upstate New York, or the feelings the group experienced at Gettysburg. All this and much more made the tour a great success. Without a doubt, the tour and the concert last night received the blessings President Samuelson pronounced upon our students prior to leaving, and will leave an indelible impression on each of our students and the many who came to listen.

Regards,

Stephen